

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/050895

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N21/55 G01N33/543 G01N35/00 B01L3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N B01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 006 716 A (HALL DENNIS G) 9 April 1991 (1991-04-09) column 4, line 59 -column 7, line 16; figures 1,2	1,2,4-8, 12-14, 19,22-24
X	US 2002/135780 A1 (NEUSCHAEFER DIETER ET AL) 26 September 2002 (2002-09-26) paragraphs '0002!', '0017!', '0034!', '0035!', '0038!', '0039!', '0041!', '0043!', '0046!', '0049!', '0051!', '0053!', '0070!', '0106!', '0107!' paragraphs '0109!', '0110!', '0169!', '0171!', '0173!', '0186!'; figures 1-3, 4B, 8E, 8F --- -/--	1-3, 5-15, 17, 19-26

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>US 5 442 448 A (KNOLL WOLFGANG) 15 August 1995 (1995-08-15)</p> <p>column 3, line 1 -column 7, line 62; figures 1,3 column 9, line 5 - line 16; figure 5 column 11, line 25 - line 62; figure 10</p>	<p>1,2,4, 6-9, 11-14, 19,22-26</p>
X	<p>US 5 846 843 A (SIMON HENRY JOHN) 8 December 1998 (1998-12-08)</p> <p>column 2, line 24 -column 4, line 7; figure 1</p>	<p>1,4,6-8, 10, 12-14, 16,17, 19,20, 22-24,26</p>
X	<p>US 6 317 206 B1 (WULF JURGEN) 13 November 2001 (2001-11-13)</p> <p>column 4, line 41 -column 5, line 19; figure 1 column 7, line 36 -column 8, line 11; figure 2</p>	<p>1,3-5, 10, 12-16, 22,23</p>
A	<p>US 5 939 709 A (GHISLAIN LUCIEN P ET AL) 17 August 1999 (1999-08-17) column 14, line 58 - line 62</p>	<p>18</p>

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-11,19-26

Support comprising inclined plane(s)

2. Claims: 12-18

Light source and detector

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International application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB2004/050895

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5006716	A	09-04-1991	NONE	
US 2002135780	A1	26-09-2002	US 2004115825 A1	17-06-2004
			US 2004115826 A1	17-06-2004
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			AT 219243 T	15-06-2002
			DE 59410136 D1	18-07-2002
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			JP 2002512697 T	23-04-2002
			WO 9858288 A1	23-12-1998

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